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THE
MODERN ATALANTIS;
OR, THE
DEVIL in an AIR BALLOON.
CONTAINING THE
Characters and Secret Memoirs
OF THE
MOST CONSPICUOUS PERSONS OF
HIGH QUALITY, OF BOTH SEXES,
IN THE
ISLAND of LIBERTUSIA,
In the WESTERN OCEAN.

Translated from the LIBERTUSIAN LANGUAGE.

When Caps into a Croud are thrown,
What fits him each Man calls his own.

L O N D O N.

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[T O]

J * * * W * * * * *, Esq.

S I R,

THE translator of the modern Atalantis has presumed to dedicate his labours to you, a the profest and distinguished patron of virtue, piety, and religion. Both in public and in private life your behaviour has been eminently consistent. As a Senator, your name will ever stand unrivalled in the annals of patriotic glory; as a Citizen, you have exerted your great abilities with more than Roman integrity; and in the relative duties of domestic life you have given to the admiring world an uncommon example of conjugal fidelity and of paternal tenderness. Nor has your literary merit been inconsiderable. The Ladies of Great Britain will ever revere those

those modest lines, so pregnant with poetic fire, which have done equal honour to their virtues, and to your own unfulfilled purity. Think not, Sir, that I offer you the fulsome incense of flattery, or that I even suppose you conscious of your own exalted merit. Your virtue can only be equalled by your humility, and you will consider yourself unworthy of that praise, which is far inadequate to your deserts.

That you may for many successive years remain an ornament to the British Senate, and that the modern Atalantis may flourish under your good auspices, is the wish,

S I R,

Of your most obedient

And truly devoted

Servant and admirer,

Feb. 7, 1784.

The TRANSLATOR.

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THE

MODERN ATALANTIS;

O R,

The DEVIL in an AIR BALLOON.

IN a beautiful island, situate in the wide Atlantic ocean, resided the sage Urgando. During the space of twice seven revolving lustres he had with unwearied diligence explored the most hidden secrets of nature, and had studied those powerful arts, by which the winds of heaven are hushed to sleep, the terrific meteors arrested in their fiery course, and the dread ministers of the infernal empire rendered subservient to the human will. The island, of which he reigned the unrivalled master, was of itself a terrestrial paradise. Nature had showered her choicest blessings upon the fertile earth; groves of the most beautiful trees offered their refreshing shade;

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limpid

simpid streams by their murmurs invited gentle sleep; and the most delicious fruits spontaneously grew amidst the flowery hedges. Urgando was the only mortal, whom the god of ocean had permitted to reside on this his favoured island. The unsubstantial spirits, that inhabit the vast expanse of air, were obedient to his will; they administered to his wants, and pleasures; and the choicest luxuries, that can delight the palate or amuse the eye, were quick as the transient gleam of lightening supplied by their attentive care. The joys of human society alone were absent. A mist impenetrable to mortal sight surrounded these blissful shores; fierce currents opposed the approach of those floating towers, which the inventive genius of man has boldly launched upon the roaring waters; and the howling dæmon of the tempest guarded from foreign invaders this forbidden coast. His skill had taught him that there were other islands, and that in those islands there existed a race of beings, who enjoyed the pleasures of social intercourse, and to whom solitude was a punishment worse than death itself. He ardently wished to visit these distant countries, to learn their manners and their laws, and to

view

view with impartial eyes their virtues and their crimes. He called by his powerful spells the daemon Uriel from the gloomy mansions of the infernal king, and commanded himself to be transported through the wide expanded regions of the azure sky to the celebrated isle of Libertusia, the imperial mistress of the western ocean, and the favoured seat of liberty and science.

At this period the restless ingenuity of man had contrived a vast machine, by which the daring artist had soared above the clouds of heaven, and visited the great ætherial expanse no longer impervious to the human race. Even daemons had envied man the glory of this invention, and had reluctantly confessed themselves far inferior to the mortal artist in mechanic skill. This engine by the creative powers of magic in a moment presented itself to the astonished view of Urgando, who joyfully sprang into his seat, and embracing the faithful Uriel, earth, ocean, and all sub-lunary objects suddenly disappeared, and securely fixed in his ærial chariot, his bosom beat high with expectation, while he sailed with impetuous force upon the wings of propitious gales, and listened with eager atten-

tion to his obedient comrade, who thus addressed him.

U R I E L.

WE now approach to the gay, the renowned, the delightful island of Libertusia. The capital of this mighty empire is now before us, and at the Circus the rich, the beautiful, and the voluptuous at this moment vie with each other in the pompous display of dress and equipage.

At the Circus the new-married lady first exhibits to public view her jewels and her gilded coach; and the youthful widow, most lovely in her weeds, consigns to eternal oblivion the memory of a tender husband. The spendthrift heir, released from a pedantic tutor and from college rules, here sports his lofty phaeton; and the emaciated debauchee, the pallid livery of death strongly imprinted on his languid countenance, in vain flies to air and exercise for relief from those disorders, which the grave only can remove. We are now at a convenient distance from the earth; we will here arrest the motion of our chariot, and secure from the intrusion of mortal eyes we will view the gay crowd beneath us.

BEHOLD

BEHOLD yon triumphant car drawn by six dappled greys, and surrounded by clouds of dust. The owner of that splended equipage was born to the enjoyment of every blessing, that rank and opulence can bestow. His father, who was of the Equestrian order, and who devoted his whole life to the sports of the field, died a martyr to his favourite amusement, and the young gentleman with the fortunes of his worthy parent inherited also his taste for the dog kennel and the stable. Even in his earliest infancy this predominant passion displayed itself, and while his masters in vain endeavoured to insfil into him the sage precepts of Seneca, the sole study of the Chevalier was the sportsman's calendar, and his only school for eloquence was the livery stable. His manners, as he advanced in life, were such as might naturally be expected from this mode of education, and his ideas fully corresponded with his appearance, Observe the clownish slouch of his hat, and the enormous size of the triple cape which overspreads his shoulders. You see the complete groom in his dress, and the coachman in every attitude. The largeness of his landed

property, and the vast accumulation of ready money during a long minority afforded an ample field to the ingenious knights of the order of industry; his rooted aversion to the society of men of rank and fashion inevitably plunged him into the company of the lowest and most infamous of mankind; and his ignorance pointed him out as a most happy subject for their wily schemes of plunder. Here however they were in a great measure disappointed, and even their deep laid stratagems often practised against themselves. One crafty adventurer had marked him for his prey, and of him the unguarded Chevalier became the exclusive property. This man, who was completely versed in the acts of low cunning and in the mysterious science of play, but whose narrow abilities had precluded even the possibility of his moving in that humble sphere which his unambitious parents had assigned him behind the counter of an apothecary, in a short time became so necessary to the Chevalier that he was consulted on the minutest transactions, and not even a groom was dismissed or a new gelding deprived of his ears without the advice of this favoured counsellor. The consequence may easily be imagined.

gined. The young gentleman was introduced to every broker or advertising usurer from the *pompous apostate Israelite*, whose distorted shape is concealed under embroidered velvet, to each crafty negotiator of the christian tribe, and his disinterested friend was ever liberal of his collateral security on the equitable terms of dividing the spoil with his patron. However he certainly possessed this merit (which perhaps few of that worthy fraternity can boast) that while he considered the purse of the Chevalier as his own, he excluded every other adventurer from the smallest share of it. He even taught him to plead his nonage against tavern scores, to oppose the statute of limitation against the demands of tradesmen, and to file bills in the courts of equity against his numerous annuitants.

That lovely creature, who sits smiling by his side in all the charms of native elegance and blooming youth, is now his favourite sultana. Her history is curious, and few women have in so short a time experienced such uncommon variety of adventures. She was first ushered into life in the very humble station of house-maid to a celebrated abbess, where with a laudable perseverance she scrubbed the stairs, and

and performed every servile office, till in a fortunate hour a young nobleman, whose delicacy the fumes of wine had overpowered, admired the fairness of her skin, (which had been washed more than ordinarily clean) and at once promoted her from the scullery of a brothel to affluence and to the honours of his bed. Her latent charms now blazed forth in all their splendor, and his Lordship was envied for the possession of that beauty, which for a while had passed unnoticed, and but for the accident of an auspicious moment had yet been consigned to the dirty embraces of some kitchen swain. Satiety soon followed enjoyment, and his Lordship's purse and his constitution proved equally insufficient to answer the demands of the now haughty fair one. A separation much to the satisfaction of both parties took place, and a succession of generous lovers enabled the lady to make a most brilliant appearance at every place of fashionable resort, and the elegance of her chariot furnished ample matter of criticism to the news-papers, and of envy to each less fortunate demirep. Haughty grandees and wealthy commoners by turns sacrificed at the altars of this

this frail Venus; and a younger son of the
 once most powerful King in Europe is suppo-
 sed to have tasted the first fruits of love in her
 bewitching arms.

WHAT problem is this? The goddess of beauty, the
 and who seems equally inaccessible to the gaze
 some around him, and to the beauty of that
 angelic creature who is loved by him? The
 variety of her countenance, and the fire of
 her expressive eyes form an admirable contrast
 to the fixed serenity of his placid face, and seem
 to reproach him for the want of attention to
 those charms, which excite the most vigorous
 emotions in every other breast.

U R G A N D U

THAT young man is a graduate of the uni-
 versity, and the lady by his side is his amiable
 Dutchess. No youth ever came forward on
 the great stage of life with more coolness and no
 one ever less deceived. That new paper
 have pompously ascribed to him every virtue of
 which the human heart is capable, and the
 imagines have announced him to the world
 as the completed pattern of classical learning,
 that ever respected honour on the literary of
 wickedness.

URGANDU.

URGANDO.

WHAT nobleman is that, on whose vacant front the goddess of dulness sits enthroned, and who seems equally insensible to the gay scene around him, and to the beauties of that angelic creature who is seated by him? The vivacity of her countenance, and the fire of her expressive eyes form an admirable contrast to the fixed apathy of his placid face, and seem to reproach him for the want of attention to those charms, which excite the most rapturous emotions in every other breast.

URIEL.

THAT young man is a grandee of the empire, and the lady by his side is his amiable Dutchess. No youth ever came forward on the great stage of life with more eclat, and no one ever less deserved it. The news-papers have pompously ascribed to him every virtue of which the human heart is capable, and the magazines have announced him to the world as the completest pattern of classical learning, that ever reflected honour on that seminary of wickedness

wickedness and immorality, a public school. I must do this justice to his character, to acknowledge that his vices are very few. One, and that indeed of a most dangerous tendency as it grows stronger with increasing years, has embarrassed his circumstances, and proved a source of unhappiness to his family. An invincible attachment to the dice-box has already diminished his princely fortune, and titled sharpers have divided among them those thousands, from the distribution of which among the creditors of his deceased father his Grace might have derived eternal honour to himself, and have saved from reproach the memory of the most exalted character, that ever shone conspicuous in the annals of military glory. As for his virtues, they are at best but negative. His natural reserve prevents his mixing with his inferiors, and has given him a domestic turn; and his pride forbids him to incur any other debts, than those which the misjudging world has so falsely stiled debts of honour. His abilities, either as a senator or a scholar, are far below mediocrity. When at school he built his reputation on the labours of another boy, and at college he was crowned with no academical honours, except those

those which are conferred at stated periods on ennobled youths. How far he inherits the spirit of his noble father, let his conduct speak. At a time when the island was invaded by foreign enemies; when a considerable part of the empire was on the point of being dismembered from the mother country; and when the exertions of every brave and loyal citizen were doubly necessary to retrieve the tarnished glory of this once happy kingdom, his Grace ostentatiously presented his sovereign the price of a battalion, but forgetful of his father's laurels he gave the command of it to a more active chief, and suffered the regiment, which bore his name, to remain a living monument of his inglorious ambition.

The virtues of his amiable lady are equally above the reach of censure, and superior to the breath of envy. Most happily formed by nature either for the splendor of a court, or for the more pleasing duties of private life, she affords an example which few modern ladies have abilities or inclination to imitate. But not all her elegant accomplishments, nor that virtue, which even the most profligate cannot but revere, could save this pattern of excellence from the barbarous insults of a
wanton

wanton libertine. A youth of illustrious descent, of uncommon parts and hitherto unblemished reputation, the favoured companion too of the unsuspecting Duke, had persuaded himself that no female could withstand the attractions of his person, and had conceived designs injurious to the honour of his friend and to the virtue of his lovely consort. His grace having requested him to attend her home from a rout, he thought this a favourable opportunity of putting his infernal scheme in execution, and actually took such unwarrantable liberties with his fair charge, that she was obliged to call the servants to her assistance, and the youth was ignominiously dragged out of the carriage, and left sprawling in the street. Intoxication was the excuse alledged, and a slight apology offered to his insulted friend, which his Grace quietly accepted as an adequate reparation for the breach of friendship, and for the highest affront which it is in the power of one man to offer to another.

In the midst of all this magnificence, by birth inferior only to royalty itself, and on the point of being raised by the favour of his sovereign to the highest dignities of the empire, his Grace is not entirely happy. The

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prostitution

prostitution of an only sister has cast an indelible stain on his illustrious family, and planted thorns in the bosom of this haughty nobleman. Endowed by nature with every enchanting grace, that could either captivate mankind, or render her an ornament to those polished circles in which she was born to move, and married with every auspicious omen to a noble youth, who was equally the object of her own choice and of the most sanguine wishes of her friends, she forgot what was due to her exalted birth, to an affectionate husband, and to her hitherto unsullied fame, and in one unlucky moment descended from rank, from splendor, and from those exalted honours which attend on conscious virtue, to infamy and to ruin. A divorce of course ensued, and the sister of the proudest grandee in Europe, rejected by her relations and spurned from society by the unforgiving world, is now the humble wife of a wine-merchant in a neighbouring kingdom, whom her fortune, much more than her personal charms, allured to receive her into his ignoble arms.

URGANDO.

URGANDO.

WHAT curious equipage is that, which next advances, drawn by a set of horses scarcely bigger than rats, and followed by a whole pack of Pomeranian curs? The uncommon smallness of the phaeton most aptly corresponds with the diminutive size of the charioteer, whose nose is overshadowed by an enormous pair of spectacles, and his whole countenance totally obscured from view by the immense hat, with which his little head is loaded. He seems to contemplate his own consequence with no little satisfaction, and I make no doubt but he thinks the perfection of human excellence consists in the expert management of a coach-whip.

URIEL.

THAT pigmy charioteer, whose every idea is concentrated in his little self, is heir to a noble fortune and to a title, and is one of those glorious pillars of the constitution, an *independent senator*. He received the first rudiments of his education at a great school in

the metropolis, where all his pocket money was expended in driving hackney coaches, and whence he was removed to the university, a most striking instance of the little advantages which the sons of men of rank derive from public tuition. The vicinity of the most famous race-course in Libertusia was to him a constant source of amusement, and to his tutors a perpetual subject of uneasiness. They expected little credit to themselves from the abilities of their pupil, and still less from his obstinate aversion to scholastic exercises; nor were they disappointed in their conjectures. He launched into life a most consummate coxcomb, equally devoid of exterior grace or of internal knowledge, and was introduced into the Libertusian senate, most deplorably ignorant of the constitution and laws of that country, in the government of which he was to possess so considerable a share. The striking characteristics of this gentleman are self conceit and avarice. Every gesture of his body bespeaks the former, and the latter, though partly concealed under the splendid mask of equipage and parade, evidently appears from his violent attachment to play, whenever he thinks that either his own skill or the inexperience

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of his antagonist affords him a convenient opportunity of gratifying his darling passion. However to this passion he has often fallen a sacrifice. He once lost some thousands to a *famous adventurer* at the German Spa, and has even been pigeoned of considerable sums at his favourite game of billiards, where his diminutive stature, his green spectacles, and the sudden distortions of countenance, which never fail to accompany each stroke, combine to form the most curious spectacle ever exhibited to public view. However with all these disadvantages he has been uncommonly successful with the fair sex. His first wife was a co-heiress, whose fortune from the death of an only brother was considerable, and who is supposed to have died a martyr to the immoderate use of paint. On his marriage with her the family pension, given as a reward for real or supposed services to his noble ancestor, was added to his income; a magnificent service of plate was purchased; and six unfortunate ponies underwent the loss of every natural ornament, of which their whimsical master could deprive them. The lady, whom the prospect of a title and the delightful embellishment of a coronet on her chariot door has since induced to favour him

with her hand, is a rich and beautiful widow, whom the generous will of her first husband had amply rewarded for the voluntary sacrifice of youthful charms to impotence and dotage. The honours of this noble family have been somewhat tarnished by an *unfortunate accident*, which exposed a younger brother of it to public infamy, and banished him to a country where he may gratify his peculiar taste with less danger to himself, and dishonour to those who by the ties of consanguinity are bound to afford him that protection in another kingdom, which by his crime he has forfeited in this.

OBSERVE

OBSERVE that cabriolet which next advances. Mark the consequential airs of the pert coxcomb who drives it, and the assumed importance of his new-married lady. His military achievements have been lately the general topic of conversation at clubs and coffee-houses, and a marriage by which he has disgraced his illustrious house, and connected himself with a family that might have been happy in his protection *on less honourable terms*, could not fail affording the highest entertainment to the tea-tables of this gay metropolis. The younger sons of the nobility are seldom born to considerable fortunes, but yet they are taught in their earliest years to imbibe the principles of extravagance, and the pride of birth confines them to the pursuit of arms, or to the inglorious ease of the sacerdotal habit. From his father this young gentleman inherited little else than a taste for dissipation; from his mother indeed he derived sentiments of native elegance, and from her he received such lessons for his future conduct in life, as would have reflected honour on herself, and have produced the most essential advantages to her darling son, had not her *example* counteracted

teracted those precepts, which her tongue enforced. A cornetcy of dragoons was his first essay in life, and no young man sported a larger cockade or was more remarkable for the smart cut of his regimentals than the gay Narcisso. He was daily seen in the circus, the park, and at the theatres, and soon became the favourite cicisbeo of fashionable demireps and of antiquated maids of quality. His father, who foresaw little hopes of promotion for him in the dragoons, procured his removal into that corps whose peculiar duty it is to protect the person of their sovereign, and where a polite address and a strict attention to the graces are deemed much more valuable accomplishments than either a knowledge of military tactics, or undaunted courage in the field. On the commencement of that war, which has involved all Europe in a flame, and which has terminated so disgracefully to this island, he attained the rank of major, and the death of his lieutenant colonel left the command of considerable part of his regiment to him, at a time when the native enemies of his country were hourly expected to invade that island, which his detachment was stationed to protect. Highly
 flat-

flattering to his vanity were these unlooked for honours, but the event proved fatal to his reputation, and all his military laurels suddenly withered in the bud. The expected invasion took place, and a body of the enemy's troops landed without opposition, and set fire to the houses of the defenceless planters. The governor, in whom the supreme command was unquestionably vested, issued the necessary orders for that defence, which might at least have protracted the capture of the place, and perhaps have afforded time for a relief. The major denied that he owed obedience to the governor, and calling a council of war of those officers who were immediately devoted to himself, the island was surrendered without the exchange of a single shot, and the conquerors declared that the annals of Europe did not afford one instance of a more easy conquest. He of course returned disgraced to Europe, and was banished the presence of his sovereign. The news-papers announced his dishonour to the world, and every print-shop exhibited a ludicrous representation of the shameful surrender of an island so valuable to the Libertusian empire. His accuser appealed to his king for a candid enquiry into the facts,

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and to the public for a suspension of censure, till the final decision of a court-martial should have either confirmed the charge, or have removed the stain of cowardice and neglected duty from the major. An enquiry accordingly took place, when to the astonishment of all mankind the supposed delinquent was honourably acquitted, and the rank of lieutenant colonel given him, as a small compensation for the stigma so *unjustly* thrown upon his injured fame. The lady, whose good fortune has raised her to a rank in life so infinitely superior either to her expectations or deserts, has only those attractions to boast of, which she derives from nature. Her mother was of low extraction, and was supposed to have lived as mistress with a foreign minister, whose intrigues during a residence of near half a century in this island only ended with his life. This young lady however was not the offspring of an unlawful amour. Madame **** before her charms were faded gave her hand to a naval officer, who did not long survive the marriage. She was left with two infant daughters, and with an income far inadequate to the style in which she before had lived, and which she still continued to maintain.

tain. To what *fund* she was indebted for her support, has ever been a secret to the world ; however she has this merit, that she paid the strictest attention to the education of her daughter, and omitted no pains which could set off her beauty to advantage, or improve her mind. How far she has succeeded in procuring her an elegant establishment, the event has proved. She certainly has aggrandized her family ; her daughter now moves in the politest circles, and the Count ***** has received her with the same polite attention, as if his brother had formed a connexion more happily suited to the wishes of his friends. The dowager countess is inexorable, and has refused her *blessing* to her once favoured son. But time may effect a reconciliation ; particularly as she was so capitally instrumental to the misconduct of the colonel, who first saw the young lady at his mother's table, and almost with her connivance drank those deep draughts of love, which are so enchanting in their early progress, but which seldom fail to terminate in sorrow and repentance.

URGANDO.

URGANDO.

WHAT elderly nobleman is that, who so eagerly reconnoitres each celebrated beauty as his carriage passes them, and darts such amorous glances from his solitary eye? In spite of old age and wrinkles there is something engaging in his countenance, and the god of love seems resolved to triumph over the ravages of time. There is a ducal coronet on his *vis-a-vis*, and his well managed horses, as they prance along, seem proud of their illustrious master.

URIEL.

THAT gentleman is his Grace of *****
 ****, better known to the gay world by his former title of Lord *****. The race course has ever been his favourite scene of action, and his improvements on the great science of play have been far more beneficial to his pocket than to his reputation. Every animal, from the high bred race horse down to the humble goose, has at different periods been the subject of his fertile invention, and in the

the early part of his life not a monarch resigned his breath, or a bitch produced a litter of puppies without causing a material alteration in his Lordship's finances. An insatiable thirst after riches has ever been his reigning foible, and to this darling passion every noble affection of the mind has by turns been sacrificed. On his succession to those high honours, and to that princely estate which he now possesses, his avarice displayed itself in the most glaring colours. The furniture of the family mansion, the horses, cabinet of curiosities, and the pictures of his noble ancestors almost coeval with the flood were consigned to public auction. Even the faithful house dog, which for many revolving years had guarded the palace of his predecessor from nightly thieves, was involved in this general wreck of things. His Grace has been equally parsimonious in his amours. One only fair one had address sufficient to ensnare his heart. The beauteous Kitty played off her batteries with more than ordinary success against his weak side, and his conduct to this lady has *almost* bordered on liberality. But no lover's generosity ever kept pace with her extravagance. Like Thais, she exacted heavy

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contributions from a variety of enamoured swains, and for some years she blazed forth a most resplendent star in the world of gallantry. At last however her creditors became importunate, and her inconstancy had lost her those friends, by whose bounty she had so oft been rescued from the hands of bailiffs. The fatal hour was at hand, and a prison afforded the charming libertine a sufficient leisure for reflection. His Grace allowed her a scanty income, and after a few months confinement her debts were compromised, and she returned to new scenes of folly and dissipation.

URGANDO.

URGANDO,

WHO is the supercilious gentleman that follows in the next pompous chariot? The splendid liveries of his attendants glitter in the sun, and his horses sweat under the unusual weight of their silver trappings. A fixed gloom seems to overspread his countenance, and he holds in his hand a scroll of papers, which he regards with a look of the most pointed discontent.

URIEL.

THAT gentleman is a Chevalier of modern creation, and is one of the most opulent subjects of the empire. He has risen from the lowest dregs of mankind, from abject beggary, and from the servile employment of a shoe-black to the vast fortune which he now possesses, and to the distinguished rank of senator. But he is a living instance of the justice of an all-wise Providence, which has denied the blessing of internal happiness to the wretch, who has dared to violate the laws of nations, and whose bold ambition has dealt

forth the complicated horrors of war and famine through those unhappy countries, where the sun of liberty has never diffused his genial influence, and where the claims of European invaders are founded on that worst of pleas, the right of conquest. Surrounded by all the glittering parade of wealth, he carries a scorpion within his bosom, and the gloomy horrors, which sit upon his brow, are but a faint image of that remorse which preys upon his heart. The desolation, which has spread far and wide throughout the Eastern world, has been the fatal effect of his unbounded avarice, and while his own coffers were filled with gold, he thought little of the loss of those territorial possessions so valuable to the Libertarian empire, and purchased at the expence of so much blood and treasure. The adventures of his youth contain nothing remarkable. He emigrated at an early period from his native country, and landed on the Indian shore without recommendation, friends, or money. He soon however got admittance into the family of a merchant in the humble station of a clerk, and by an unwearied attention to business, and by some fortunate strokes in trade, he returned after an absence of several years to

Europe,

Europe, loaded with the golden spoils of Asia, and exhibiting to the view of his astonished countrymen a most curious pattern of the assumed pride and awkward consequence of an Eastern nabob. A gaudy equipage was immediately ordered; an imaginary coat of arms was blazoned on his carriages; and his hall was crowded with saucy lackeys, who excluded those quondam comrades from the presence of their haughty master, to whose benevolence in former years he had often been indebted for a bit of bread. A considerable sum was expended in the purchase of a seat in the Libertusian senate, and every interest was now exerted and every nerve was strained to gain his favourite point. He had long wished to emerge from the filthy dregs of the Plebeian order, and he would willingly have sacrificed half his fortune to procure letters of nobility. Here indeed he failed of the wished-for success; but a vacancy happening during the administration of that party, under whose banners he had fortunately enlisted, he obtained the lucrative appointment of Viceroy to the Indies, where he arrived just at the commencement of hostilities between Libertusia and the mighty empire of Terpsichoria.

He here found the native princes disaffected to the Libertusian interest, and his own government divided by intestine broils. But he took no pains to reconcile the contending parties at home, nor did he solicit the aid of foreign allies. He saw with unconcern the powerful tyrant of Mysore carry over his numerous armies to the standard of the Terpsichorian general, but he found no leisure from the management of his own private concerns to attend to the duties of his station, or to the interests of his country. The leases of those provinces, which were not yet the seat of war, were resold to the highest bidder, and every species of oppression was countenanced in those parts which were far distant from the seat of government, while the subordinate chiefs divided the spoils with their avaricious governor. At this important period one auspicious event cast a gleam of triumph over the Libertusian arms, and for a while warded off the blow, which was hereafter to fall with redoubled force on that devoted country. The capital fortress belonging to the enemy surrendered after a two months siege, and the son of the Viceroy was dispatched to Europe with the glorious news, and

and with a pompous account of the great services which his father had rendered to his king. He had the honour of laying the colours at the feet of his sovereign, and the rank of the Equestrian order was conferred upon the fortunate Viceroy, who immediately gave up the government to his successor, and revisited Europe crowned with borrowed laurels, but his coffers most amply freighted with sterling gold. The Chevalier now thought himself on the point of reaching the highest pinnacle of human grandeur. Nothing less than a title could satisfy his towering ambition, and he already began to look down with contempt on that inferior branch of the legislature, in which the people of this island by general consent have vested their lives and liberties. To that House however he has been obliged to bend the knee. The violated rights of the unhappy natives of India called aloud for redress, and the honour of the Libertusian empire required that its subjects should not in vain appeal to the throne for justice. An enquiry into the private affairs of the Chevalier was deemed an object of national concern; and the arts by which he had amassed such prodigious treasures were now to be exposed.

posed to the examination of impartial senators. His judges however in their zeal for the public service exceeded those powers, which by the constitution of the country, as well as the voice of their electors, are entrusted to them. They enacted restraining laws, by which both his person and his property were left at the disposal of the senate, and his innocent family were involved in the sentence, which proscribed the fortunes of the guilty parent. In this instance however to do a great right they did a little wrong, and happy would it be for this island, was their authority oftener stretched beyond its usual limits to curb the ambition of those daring men, who hold themselves amenable to no laws, except such as are subservient to their aspiring views. This accident and the stings of a guilty conscience are the occasion of that melancholy, which has so visible an effect upon his features. The scroll, which he carries in his hand, is the copy of a pamphlet written in defence of Indian speculators by that eccentric genius, whose vile translation of the immortal Homer would have disgraced the pen of the most contemptible author, that ever prostituted his venal muse for hire. His eldest son bears a distinguished rank
 belong in

in the army, and his abilities in the senate have been displayed with great honour to himself in defence of his father's fortune and reputation. His second son is a youth of high spirit and of an elegant address. He has signalized himself in the gay world by his connexion with the lovely Cargillina, a beautiful actress from the Italian stage, who accompanied him even to a prison, in which he was shut up for a few months previous to his embarkation for the Indies, where his father sent him into involuntary exile, that he might forget the guilty joys which he had tasted in the embraces of that enchanting syren. The lady however has shewn an example of constancy seldom to be found in this degenerate age. She embarked in another ship in the disguise of an officer's uniform, and is now happy in the arms of her beloved youth in India.

CAST

CAST your eyes towards the next equipage which rolls along, and observe the toothless veteran, whose perpendicular and formal attitude excites the laughter of every beholder. Time, you see, has implanted its deep furrows on his fallow cheeks, and yet he apes the vivacity and tricks of youth. Take notice with what horrid distortions of countenance he ogles each lovely nymph that passes him. At this moment he squints with peculiar obliquity of vision; a beauteous girl of fifteen has returned his bow, and the smile of contempt and ridicule, which overspreads her angelic face, the vain-glorious dotard has mistaken for the most partial signal of applause. The life of this gentleman has been one continued scene of extravagance, folly, and debauchery. Ostentatiously prodigal without generosity, and despicably mean without frugality, he has dissipated the noble inheritance of his ancestors in the gratification of those appetites, which level man to the standard of the brute creation. Consistent only in one pursuit, and capitally versed in the arts of seduction, he has debauched more chambermaids,

bermaids, and reduced more virgins of the *servile tribe* to the sad necessity of prostitution in the streets, than there are ladies in the seraglio of an Eastern monarch. At the age of twenty-one he came into the possession of a princely fortune. His estates in those islands which are situate beyond the Atlantic ocean, were very considerable; and his seat near that city, whose baths are the resort of the infirm, the hypochondriacal, and the gay, was visited by the curious traveller as the most finished production of art and nature, which this island boasts of. His lady was one of the prettiest women of Libertusia, her person was graceful in the extreme, her understanding uncommonly refined, and her conduct throughout life irreproachable. Yet could not these accomplishments engage the heart of her insatiable husband, or inspire him with sentiments of esteem and gratitude. His behaviour at last turned her brain, and she is now in a private mad-house, a martyr to disappointed love, and a living monument of the cruelty of her perfidious lord. Nor have his adventures in public life been attended with less dishonour, than while he moved in a more humble sphere. His shameful surrender of the island of St.

V***** to an inferior force stands foremost in the records of those acts of neglect and cowardice, that have tarnished the glory of the Libertusian arms in the late unhappy war. A proper attention to his own concerns, while that lucrative government was in hands, might have retrieved his ruined fortunes, and had he possessed one spark of courage, a gallant defence of that island, which was entrusted to his charge, would have preserved his fame unsullied, and have ensured the future favours of his sovereign. But he had no leisure for the important duties of his station. He carried his passion for intrigue to such a height, that he considered every moment wasted, which was not devoted to the seduction of some believing female. Even the officers of state found no access to him except through the favour of his reigning mistress; and the uncultivated lands were given as pensions to his discarded prostitutes, and by them sold at exorbitant prices to the highest bidder. However great as the expence of these amours must have been, he could not have been completely ruined, had he not called in the aid of every other vice, which can either debase the mind or injure the constitution.

V*****

He

He has lavished immense sums at every game of chance or skill, where he has been much oftner the dupe of his own vanity and conceit, than of the designs of others. The rage of electioneering too has had its turn, and for the unfair methods, by which he attempted to ensure his seat, he has *on his knees* implored the forgiveness of the insulted senate. But the hour of repentance is now at hand; his evil destiny presses hard upon him, and he has fallen never to rise again. Even the carriage in which he rides is not his own, and the fell blood-hounds of the law will soon arrest his person, and drag him to a prison, where he will still pursue those pleasures which he has lost the power to enjoy, and will harass the ministers of his offended sovereign with pompous details of imaginary claims, and unrewarded services.*

THE

- * The following Epitaph, which is transcribed from a Tombstone in a Country Church-yard, is inserted not as a Specimen of poetic Merit, but as being peculiarly applicable to the above Character.

Beneath this turf doth rest from worldly pain

Hirco the lewd, the pompous, and the vain.

In wit a child, in gallantry an ape,

A dupe to ev'ry thing in female shape.

Each day some wretched virgin's murder'd fame

Proclaim'd his triumph, and announc'd his shame.

At

THE superb coach which next follows contains the unworthy heir of the estate and honours of that accomplished nobleman, whose sacrifices at the altar of the graces, and whose shining abilities both as a statesman and a scholar will be remembered in this island, while either literary merit or polished elegance of manners shall command esteem. But with the titles of his truly noble ancestor he has inherited not his virtues. An unfortunate want of native genius, a passion for play, and a strong attachment to the pleasures of the bottle are the striking traits in his Lordship's character. Against the former of these vices the prudent will of the deceased Count has most wisely provided; but a confirmed habit of drunkenness is a disease, which death alone can remedy. Great were the expectations of the world, when this nobleman first appeared on the gay theatre of life. No common talents were ascribed to the successor of the learned, the witty, and the elegant Count de *****; and the happy union of the gentleman and the scholar of course must have belonged to him alone. How far the hopes

At length forgetting what he once had been,
 A jail his palace, and a slave his queen,
 To ghastly lust and impotence a prey,
 He call'd for viper broth, and sigh'd his soul away.

hopes of his friends were frustrated, the event
 has shewn. His abilities in the senate have
 gained him no applause, and his first essay in
 the paths of military glory has proved him
 equally unqualified for the field. The ex-
 ample of his noble relation indeed urged him
 for a while to wear the livery of Mars; but
 he dreaded the fatigues of a foreign campaign,
 or perhaps could not divorce himself from the
 embraces of his lovely Countess. The un-
 happy errors of his education are the grand
 source from which these evils have been de-
 rived; and a tutor notorious for the practice
 of every vice, which could disgrace his pro-
 fession or corrupt his pupil, was ill calcu-
 lated to instil the principles of moral recti-
 tude into a youthful mind. " But O thou
 " spirit of the departed ***** , I
 " impute not to thee these errors. That
 " person, whom thou madest the guardian
 " of thy beloved heir, possessed every alluring
 " art, which could either mislead the under-
 " standing or ensnare the heart. The magic
 " of his syren tongue might have deceived
 " even the crafty ministers of our infernal
 " empire, and little didst thou suspect that
 " under such engaging softness of manners

“ the blackest perfidy was concealed. But he
 “ has atoned by a cruel death for all his
 “ crimes, and if spirits could feel for human
 “ woe, surely thy gentle shade would pay
 “ the involuntary tribute of a tear to the
 “ memory of that man, who once possessed so
 “ large a portion of thy esteem.”

It is supposed that his Lordship is on the
 point of setting out in a public character to
 a neighbouring kingdom. The present state
 of his finances most certainly requires a lu-
 crative appointment, but his sudden restora-
 tion to the good graces of his sovereign is a
 matter of universal wonder. The scenes of
 debauchery, into which he has led the Liber-
 tusian Prince, banished him for a while from
 the royal presence, and his want of acquired
 knowledge and of native dignity must render
 him very unfit to be the representative of his
 king at the proudest court in Europe. But sove-
 reigns are not always indulged in the choice
 of their own servants; and in this island,
 where confusion must ever be inseparable from
 the divided form of government, those per-
 sons, whose offices place them nearest to the
 throne, are often the farthest from their mas-
 ter's favour.

URGANDO.

U R I C A N I D

WHAT strange phenomenon is that which now attracts the attention of the Circus? Surely, it is an Amazonian charioteer, who seems determined to vie with the most expert drivers of the other sex, and bids fair to wrest the Olympic palm from every male competitor. Have the fair ladies of this luxurious island lost every sense of decency, or have they forgotten that female excellence consists not in athletic sports, but in meek-eyed modesty, and that beauty never puts on a more engaging form, than when tremblingly alive to every softer feeling of delicacy?

U R I B L

THAT lady is of high quality, and was once ranked among the most celebrated toasts of Libertusia. But the immoderate use of cosmetics has destroyed her charms, and that countenance, which in former years might have vied with the native beauties of the Paphian goddess, is now disgusting in the extreme, and carries with it more real horrors

than Medusa's head. It is said that the fashionable stucco, with which the palaces of this metropolis are adorned, took its rise from this lady's toilet, and that the first specimens of modern incrustation were exhibited on her lovely face. An affectation of singularity has been her peculiar foible, and she has ever pursued her favourite system in defiance of the pointed shafts of ridicule and the voice of scandal. Her virtue indeed she has preserved un sullied, but her eccentric turn has cast a shade over her good qualities, and afforded but too much room for censure to an ill-natured world. It is not enough for a woman to be merely virtuous; she must carefully avoid even the least appearance of vice, or she will find too late that shadows are often as destructive to female honour, as the most full conviction of repeated guilt. Her daughters, though at the age of maturity, are close prisoners in the nursery, lest their youthful beauty should command that homage, which her Ladyship in vain expects shall be bestowed upon her faded charms.

Observe how expert she is in the management of her reins, and with what consummate skill she handles her whip. She has
just

just passed the chariot of the Libertusian Prince, who has honoured her with a most gracious bow, and has not a little contributed to encrease that vanity, which before was but too conspicuous.

URGANDO

URCANDO

IS that graceful youth the heir apparent of the empire, and the happy ravisher of every female heart about his father's court? The utmost good humour is expressed in his open countenance, and there is a native dignity in his air, which bespeaks the conscious pride of royalty. But who is the faithful companion seated by him, whose instructive eloquence he seems to regard with that attention, which the favoured pupil pays to an indulgent tutor?

URIEL.

THAT gentleman is the most consummate politician of the present age, and the completest orator of the Libertusian senate. Bred up in the busy scenes of public life, he has imbibed from his cradle a perfect knowledge of the arts of government, and has with the greatest success displayed the powers of eloquence over the human mind. The interests of his own country, and those of foreign nations are equally known to him. To the latter he has been a formidable minister;

URCANDO.

to

to the former a steady friend. He has long been the only bar to the aspiring views of that powerful faction, whose aim is aristocracy, and he may with the strictest justice be stiled the glorious bulwark of the people's liberty. But he enjoys not the favour of his sovereign. The court is at this moment distracted by contending parties, and this gentleman has been obliged to resign his high employments to those men, *whose only merit* is that they possess the confidence of their king. It is a melancholy truth, that monarchs are often less enlightened than the meanest of their subjects, and they are rarely able to distinguish between the false lustre of affected patriotism, and real worth.

The attachment of the heir apparent to this gentleman reflects the highest honour on the understanding of the Prince. When that awful period shall arrive, which shall number his royal parent with the dead, this able statesman shall then preside over the helm of government, and his faithful services to a *grateful* sovereign shall raise him to the most exalted dignities of the Libertusian empire.

OBSERVE

OBSERVE the morose figure, that occupies a solitary corner of yonder coach. From the pompous gravity that is seated on his brow you would imagine that the whole weight of this mighty kingdom rested on him alone. He is president of that department of the law, which is styled the supreme court of equity, and from whose solemn decisions there is no appeal, except to the grandees of the empire. The origin of this haughty Lord is mean, and his parts are far from brilliant; perseverance has supplied the want of native genius, and he is indebted to fortune for that rapid advancement to wealth and honours, which the fickle goddess seldom bestows upon intrinsic merit.

His father, whose income from the church was very moderate, and who was burthened with a numerous family, gave the young gentleman a good classical education, and sent him at an early period to the university with a stipend barely adequate to the common necessities of life, and enriched his paternal blessing with a variety of sage instructions, which he assured him were far more valuable than gold.

gold. The untoward son however soon forgot his father's precepts, and launched into every species of dissipation and low debauchery, that could involve his circumstances and degrade his character. His academical exercises were neglected, the rigid laws of the college were infringed, and his time was divided between the pleasures of the bottle, and the society of common prostitutes. His tutors in vain remonstrated, and equally fruitless were the reproaches of the afflicted parent, who drew a melancholy preface of the impending ruin of his son, when an accident of a most curious nature relieved the youth from his embarrassments, and gave a new turn to his affairs. The little care which he observed in the prosecution of his amours had more than once involved him in the most ridiculous perplexities, and his friends trembled lest a disgraceful expulsion from the university should be the unhappy consequence of his imprudence. But college was not the only scene of his intrigues. Even his father's roof had not been sacred from his attempts, and the pregnancy of a favourite house-maid was now ready to betray his guilty pleasures to the world. In this dilemma he adopted the only
 scheme

scheme which his ingenuity could point out to effect a reconciliation with his father, and ensure a decent provision for the girl. He caused it to be hinted to the old gentleman, that she had declared him to be the father of the unborn infant, and that his utmost caution was necessary to prevent a discovery, which must terminate in disgrace and ruin. Terrified at these menaces, and in the utmost distraction of mind, he unbosomed himself to his son, and with tears of sorrow implored his assistance to extricate him from this fatal accident. With the most solemn protestations he declared his abhorrence of the crime, and appealed to that all-merciful Being, who judges the hearts of men; but he well knew how little his grey hairs, his sacred function, and tried integrity of manners would avail him before an earthly judge, and he dreaded the keen reproaches of an unfeeling world, and the indelible stigma of public infamy. The youth, who had already made a surprising progress in the art of dissimulation, with the utmost composure of countenance heard his father's story, execrated the vile strumpet and the unknown partner of her guilt, and at last proposed to sacrifice his own unsullied fame to preserve

preserve the dearer honour of his respected parent. This generous proposal was with joy accepted, the vile creature and the living monument of her shame were secretly provided for, and the happy parent embraced this *uncommon pattern of filial duty* with tears of unfeigned gratitude and affection. The event was fortunate to the youth, whose debts were immediately paid at college, his allowance increased to double the sum, and he now possessed the most unbounded influence over his indulgent father.

After the usual term of probation he took his degrees at the university, and bidding adieu to a college life, he resided in chambers in one of the most celebrated inns of court in the metropolis. Here he sometimes applied himself to serious study, and made some progress in the knowledge of the law. But he much oftener devoted his hours to his bottle friends, or whispered sweet tales of love into the ears of some believing laundress. No man ever possessed a more amorous constitution, and none was ever less calculated by nature to inspire the tender passion. His forbidding countenance is a true emblem of his ungente heart, and even in the softer moments of dal-

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liance

liance his native ferocity is predominant. But he was born in an auspicious hour, and his good genius has surmounted every obstacle, and has raised him by rapid strides to his present elevated situation. In the midst of his prosperity he has not been totally unmindful of his relations. His interest has advanced one brother to the high honours of an episcopal see, and he has conferred trifling favours on the more distant branches of his family. One other brother, who had amassed an inconsiderable sum by commerce in a town famous for its manufactures, aspired to a seat in the Libertusian senate, and actually squandered the greatest part of his fortune in the attempt. His Lordship's letter of condolence on this occasion is recorded as a masterly stroke of laconic elegance and fraternal affection. *

For some years past however his amours have been greatly circumscribed. A bar maid at a noted coffee-house near the inns of court had the address to fix this wandering star, and he has been tolerably constant to her arms. The charms of her conversation must have
ensnared

* Brother,
You are a fool; you have lost your election, and I am
glad of it,

Yours, *****

ensnared his heart, for her personal accomplishments are few indeed. However she has proved a faithful mistress to him, and has presented him with several children. He now resides in a small villa about a league distant from the metropolis, where he privately visits her, and in her embraces forgets the important concerns of government and the cares of law.

BUT not even the highest stations are exempt from folly, nor is vice less frequently found in the imperial palace, than in the humble cottage. Mark that superb equipage, which raises such clouds of dust, and observe the profound homage which the *royal liveries of the attendants* extort from the gazing multitude. In that coach the haughtiest woman in Libertusia displays her own vanity and her husband's folly. Not many years ago she was the widow of an officer, and little hopes did her *personal charms* afford her of a second marriage, when chance threw the Prince Henrico in her way. She had the address to engage his affections, and to draw from him a *half-extorted* promise of matrimony. The ingenuity of an artful woman can only be excelled by the most crafty ministers of our infernal empire. *The honour of her family* was now at stake, *the tender feelings of a believing widow* were not to be trifled with, and the unfortunate Prince was entangled in those bonds, which death only can dissolve. Her wishes were now fulfilled; her pride was gratified, and she triumphed in all the *mockery of royal state*. But she was never received at court, and

and the senate most wisely enacted a law,
by which the Princes of the blood in fu-
ture are prevented from forming such alli-
ances, as are disgraceful to their exalted
rank, and injurious to the interests of their
country.

URGANDO.

BUT what goddess do I now behold in a cabriolet drawn by milk white ponies, and decorated with festoons of flowers? Is it the Queen of beauty who has descended from the celestial regions to visit this favoured island, or do the lovely daughters of Libertusia boast more exquisite charms, than the immortal virgins of Paradise?

URIEL.

THAT Lady is the frail Maria, whose form is indeed lovely to the view, but all within, like the painted sepulchres that enclose the dead, is the foulest emblem of mortality. She is the Flora of the present day, and in her mercenary arms the infatuated youths of Libertusia consume their vigour and their fortunes.

Her father, who was a merchant of some little consequence in a sea-port town, sent her

her at a very early period to a country boarding-school, where the first seeds of vice were imprinted on her infant mind. She was taught to display her beauties in the wanton mazes of the sprightly dance, to convey her most secret thoughts by the expressive language of the eyes, and to consider symmetry of person and a graceful attitude as the perfection of female excellence. Romances, novels, and visionary tales of love were her favourite study, and the looser entertainments of the theatre conspired to banish each chaste idea from her breast. Her lovers, as she advanced in years, were numerous, and the gentleman, whom she condescended to honour with her hand, succeeded by the disingenuous artifice of boasting a fortune, which had no existence but in his own invention. But their happiness was of short duration. Indifference is the certain consequence of satiety, and his extravagance plunged them both into a prison,

son, where they languished under the most complicated distress, nor were released till the humane interference of the legislature restored to liberty those unfortunate wretches, whom a barbarous custom had doomed to be the victims of legal persecution.

Numberless are the gallants who claim the superior merit of having seduced Maria; it is however of little moment, who was the happy man. It is sufficient, that the town acquired so valuable a prize, and it is certain that she has eclipsed every modern Thais that this gay metropolis has boasted, since the celebrated Eleanora captivated the voluptuous monarch of Libertusia in the preceding century. Like Thais too she has had a rapid succession of admirers, her unbounded avarice having ever proved an efficacious remedy for that passion which her beauty had inspired. A *pompous negotiator of the tribe of Levi* was formerly smitten

ten

ten with her charms, and laid himself and his treasures at her feet. A more egregious dupe than this conceited Israelite has seldom been entangled in the snares of an artful woman. The Gorgon's head was not more hideous than his countenance, and deformity marked him for her own. But he revelled in the delicious heaven of her arms, till he reluctantly gave way to a more wealthy rival, and in revenge he published her letters to the world. To ascertain the number of her admirers would be hardly a more arduous task than to reckon the sands on the Atlantic shores. The scandalous chronicles of the day have ascribed to her the honour of having first revealed the sacred mysteries of Venus to the Libertusian Prince. That he has toyed away a few idle hours with the fair Maria, is an undoubted fact; but his attachment was only the passion of the moment, and while he admired her angelic form, he detested her sordid principles, and
 though

though he carressed her bewitching person, he despised the mercenary prostitute.

Her theatrical talents were once admired, and the news papers condescended to sooth her vanity by the most fulsome adulation. The public indeed were for a while amused, and the errors of the imperfect actresses were overlooked, when they beheld the dazzling splendor of her charms. But the duties of the stage were too laborious for Maria, and her haughty spirit disdained that humiliating attendance, which an imperious manager exacts from a servile crew.

But the manners of every woman of pleasure are almost invariably the same. Gold is the only god they worship, and every softer feeling is absorbed in the pursuit of gain. The character of Maria at one glance exhibits to view the whole mercenary tribe in miniature. She is not more superior to them in personal accomplishments, than in duplicity, fraud, and avarice. But she will
soon

soon lament the diminished lustre of her charms. She verges towards the decline of beauty, and even Maria must in her turn give way to some more attractive fair one.

OBSCURE and unknown to the
 great, and the well-dressed lady by
 his side. He has for some years past been
 separated from his country, and the elegant
 T. has, one of the brightest ornaments
 of the Librarian's library, enjoys full pos-
 session of his lordship's heart. She declares
 that the greater endowments of feeling love
 interfere not with their political system, and
 that she admits not the necessity of his
 being the possessor of his noble mind.

— It too frequently happens that the power of an experienced courtesan over a mind vitiated by debauchery is far superior to the influence of a virtuous wife. But the obstinacy of parents is too often the source of matrimonial unhappiness. Under the roof of the humble cottager conjugal felicity may sometimes be found, but the great and affluent disdain to consult the heart.

OBSERVE that nobleman in the sea-green phaeton, and the well-dressed lady by his side. He has for some years past been separated from his Countess, and the elegant Farrinella, one of the brightest ornaments of the Libertusian theatre, enjoys full possession of his Lordship's heart. She declares that the grosser endearments of sensual love interfere not with their Platonic system, and that she admires not the attractions of his person, but the beauties of his *angelic mind*.

His

His Lordship has from his earliest infancy been remarkable for extravagance, vanity, and ostentation. He has submitted to be robbed by sharpers, that a paragraph in the public papers might pompously announce his losses to the world, and though by birth an hereditary counsellor to the crown, he has attached himself to the democratic party for the attainment of popular applause. In the senate he is noisy, arrogant, and tedious in his harangues. He mistakes declamation for oratory, and sophistry for sterling wit. On his marriage with the sister of an illustrious grandee he gave a rural *fête* to the nobility, which would have done honour to a royal wedding. But the God of Hymen did not preside on that inauspicious day; unhallowed dæmons kindled the nuptial torch, and the bride reluctant surrendered her lovely person to his arms. Cupid however punished her contempt of his almighty power. A grandee, famous for his skill in gymnastic

G

exercises,

exercises, inspired her with the tender passion, and groves, meadows, and sequestered bowers were conscious of their guilty loves. But they did not long escape unseen by the prying eye of jealousy. A domestic employed to watch them surprised them in an unguarded moment, and his Lordship banished the inconstant fair one from his bed. He did not however remain disconsolate. He courted the smiles of venal beauty, and for once displayed a shadow of taste in his amours. He formed a transitory connexion with a lady, who possessed indeed neither youth nor beauty, but a mind uncommonly cultivated, and a dignity of sentiment far beyond her station. But her genius was too refined for him, and her brilliant ideas soared infinitely above his reach. Piqued at the superior lustre of her wit, he left her in disgust, and attached himself to the lovely Farrinella. Here he has found his wishes gratified in their full extent. The Paphian goddess is

not

not more lovely to the view, nor is her statue more inanimate. His Lordship is certainly happy in his choice. He can securely enjoy his *pun*, and not tremble under the severer sting of female repartee.

U R I E L.

 a censor to his king and country, and a gift
 grace to that army in which he so lately
 bore a distinguished rank. He is the son of
 a common peasant in a neighbouring island,
 and was originally a private soldier. His
 personal bravery procured him a commission,
 and he rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Col-
 onel in the course of that unhappy war,
 in which Liberta for ever lost the empire
 of the world. When the period of that
 Republic

G 2 **URGANDO.**

U R G A N D O.

INFORM me who next advances in that gilded chariot? The liveries of the servants are richly laced, and the *tout ensemble* is at once emblematic of opulence and of awkward pride. But there is a native vulgarity in the owner's manner, which not all his assumed consequence can effectually conceal.

U R I E L.

THAT gentleman is the degraded ***** a traitor to his king and country, and a disgrace to that army in which he so lately bore a distinguished rank. He is the son of a common peasant in a neighbouring island, and was originally a private soldier. His personal bravery procured him a commission, and he rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the course of that unhappy war, in which Libertusia for ever lost the empire of the world. When the perfidy of that Republic,

Republic, (whose industrious sons have extended the arts of commerce throughout the remotest regions of the habitable globe) violated the faith of treaties, and trampled on the sacred rights of nations, he was appointed to the government of a conquered island, which had long been a place of refuge to the enemies of Libertulia, and was the great emporium of the western world. But the Colonel could not withstand the temptation of Terpsichorian gold. The island was invaded, and was surrendered without a stroke. An inconsiderable detachment landed, and the garrison were only apprised of their captivity by their successful conquerors. A court martial enquired into the merits of the transaction, and the Colonel was stripped of his military honours and branded with eternal infamy. Under a less gentle government he would have experienced a severer fate, but in this country the unfortunate wretch, whom the agonizing pangs of hunger have compelled to steal a single ducat,

atones for his crime by an ignominious death upon a gibbet, while the betrayer of his injured country is only punished by the loss of that reputation, which he has bartered for foreign gold.

His lady, whose clumsy finery forms an exact portrait of a tragic empress in a barn, in her youthful days sold oysters in a country town. But her aspiring soul disdained to languish in obscurity, and even while she carried her husband's knapsack in the field, she displayed a resolution superior to her strength and sex. When the murdering cannon mowed down whole ranks of devoted victims, she was ever undaunted in the rear, where she industriously performed the duties of her office, and stripped the dying and the dead of those superfluous ornaments, which they no longer wanted. But when the Colonel returned to Europe, she forgot her own native poverty and her humble origin. Enraged at being out-bidden at a public sale by the wife of a celebrated gardener,

dener, who had purchased at an immoderate price an elegant lot of china, she insulted her successful rival in the most outrageous terms, and astonished the company by her profound knowledge of that language, in which the nymphs of the Libertusian markets assail those imprudent persons, who are so hardy as to despise their fish. She wondered, that a wretch who had so lately started from the drags of earth should presume to vie with her, and reminded her of the wide distinction between the paltry retailer of a cabbage, and the lady of a Libertusian Colonel. Nothing less than the modest rebuke* which she received could have abashed this accomplished Virago, and have restored the room to its tranquillity.

Although the Colonel's first advancement

* It is true, madam, that I am a gardener's wife, but the retailing of cabbages is a less ignominious traffic than the sale of islands.

ment in life was owing to his bravery, yet his martial ardour did not increase with his promotion. In that fatal action, when the Libertusian army in vain resisted the superior numbers of the rebellious foe, his regiment was conspicuously engaged. But the Colonel was not present at the battle; the *gout* confined him an *involuntary* prisoner to his tent, and the command of his company was given to a younger officer, who with the most dauntless intrepidity led on his *light-armed* infantry to the scene of action, and was one of those illustrious few, who covered with wounds survived the slaughter of that memorable day. But from that moment he experienced in the Colonel an inveterate and unforgiving enemy. Stung with the remembrance of his own misconduct, and envious of the laurels with which that heroic officer was crowned, the wretch cherished an implacable resentment, nor was his vindictive spirit satisfied, till the unfortunate youth fell a sacrifice to his infernal arts.

BUT

BUT not only inconsiderable islands have been dismembered from the Libertinian empire through the neglect, perfidy, and cowardice of her commanders. Behold yon superb *voiture*, which follows the carriage of the degraded Colonel. The owner of that equipage was invested with the supreme military command in the Western world, and to him was assigned the glorious task of chastising rebellion, and restoring peace to the far greater part of the terrestrial globe. But the General forgot the duties of his station, nor did he suffer the ruder fatigues of war to interfere with the pursuits of gallantry. A lady born on the delightful plains of Georgia had ensnared his heart in the silken toils of love, and in her enchanting embraces his hours imperceptibly stole away. Her husband, who had formerly been an officer, was provided for by a lucrative appointment, and the only road either

to

to preferment or to profit was through the interest of this favourite sultana.

Nor were the inferior officers less voluptuous. They considered it a compliment due to their commander to follow his bright example; and plays, assemblies, and every other species of elegant dissipation took up their time. The rage of gaming too spread like a contagion throughout the camp; and the die, which completed the ruin of the needy subaltern, often involved his colonel in the same destruction. Meanwhile the rebels did not remain inactive. They asserted their *independence* with redoubled vigour, and the capture of a considerable detachment under an *experienced but ill-fated general* inspired the Libertarian troops with terror and dismay, and seemed prophetic of the rising glories of their triumphant foe. The General was now recalled to Europe, and his departure was solemnized by a *feir*, which would have reflected the highest honour

nour on a victorious commander, but was in the present instance the severest satire, that human ingenuity could invent. The troops glittering in all the pomp of war marched through triumphal arches; galleys adorned with festoons of flowers, and waving their purple streamers in the winds, covered the surface of the river; and knights fantastically drest revived the encounters of ancient chivalry, and maintained the superior beauty of their respective dulcineas. In the evening the heavens blazed with artificial fires, and a magnificent banquet closed the entertainment.

Such were the honours which the officers of the Libertusian army conferred on that General, to whom this island is indebted for the loss of her most valuable provinces in the Western world.

URGANDO.

URGANDO.

'WHO is that tall, emaciated figure in the coach with the green and scarlet liveries? He resembles a spectre risen from the grave, and I suppose comes here to repair his shattered constitution by air and exercise.

URIEL.

THAT nobleman is the haughty and pe-nurious Lord Avario. Under a former administration he enjoyed the honourable and lucrative appointment of Commander in Chief of the Libertusian forces, and he possessed the confidence of his Sovereign in almost as great a degree, as he did the contempt and hatred of the army. The person, who is seated opposite to him, and whose gross and bloated carcase forms an admirable contrast to the meagre body of his master, was his Lordship's favoured secretary, and was an accurate copy of the pride, insolence, and peevish humours of his patron. No officer under the rank of Colonel

Colonel was deemed worthy the honour of an interview with Avario. Subalterns, after waiting whole tedious hours in an antichamber, were sometimes favoured with an audience by the representative of his Lordship, and were treated with the same contemptuous arrogance, which the most abject slave experiences from a Turkish despot. Servility and a well-timed bribe were the only roads to the good graces of this petty tyrant. The former of these the indignant spirit of a soldier spurned at, and the latter was seldom within the reach of those sons of war, whose only reward is honour, *and who seek the bubble reputation even in the cannon's mouth.*

THE morning is uncommonly fine, and the crowd of equipages more than usually great. You here at one glance behold the world in epitome, and the gay, the splenetic, the vigorous, and the drooping invalid pass in review before you.

THAT gentleman, whom the next chariot contains, and who at this moment seems pregnant with some important business, was once the most popular speaker in the Libertusian senate. His words, like the oracles of the Delphic god, were deemed the vehicles of sacred truth, and when he sported in the flowery mazes of rhetoric, the admiring audience listened with attentive silence, and every ruder breath was hushed. But suddenly a rage for reformation seized him, and the palace was the first object of his enquiry. To retrench the expences of the royal household he judged a matter of parliamentary concern, and big with this im-
portant

portant event, he teized the senate with imaginary systems of œconomy, till he dwindled into a mere *clerk of the kitchen*, and lost all his full-blown honours in the pantry of his fovereign.

BUT I see your notice is attracted by a carriage drawn by a single horse, and suspended by a most tottering balance between earth and heaven. That curious machine is called a gig, and the owner of it is the once brilliant Carlos, who dissipated an immense estate in a shorter time and with less credit to himself, than even the most extravagant of his gay competitors. He is of the Equestrian order, and derives his seat in the Libertusian senate from the generous inhabitants of an ancient city on the Western coast. Formerly when he honoured the Circus with his visits, his equipage was superb, his attendants numerous, and his horses were of the Persian breed; but the most unbounded prodigality has now reduced him to an humble gig, and his lady, so lately the proudest of the Libertusian fair, has experienced this fatal truth, that

Few

Few to the setting sun their homage pay,
 Like Persians who adore it in the East,
 But ne'er salute it verging to the West,
 Unthankful for the gifts of the preceding day.

Lady ***** was the daughter of a gentleman in very moderate circumstances, and was for several years a female fortune-hunter. At watering places, race-courses, and at country balls she displayed her charms, and so skilled was she in the cosmetic art that she varied her beauties with the seasons, and never appeared two successive summers with the same complexion. She is considerably older than the Chevalier, who swallowed the pill of matrimony by compulsion and not by choice. He had often danced in public with the lady, and had sometimes whispered into her ear those agreeable tales of love, which every well-bred man offers as a tribute due to female vanity. But these lively effusions, so inseparable from a youth of spirit, she considered in

another view. He had seduced her *virgin heart*, and the stern honour of an ancient family called aloud for satisfaction. A near relation of the young lady immediately waited on the Chevalier, and proposed the nuptial ceremony or the sword. The former appeared the less dreadful evil, and the youth was led an unwilling sacrifice to the altar. From such a compulsive union little happiness could be expected. They followed their separate schemes of pleasure, till dress, equipage, and the all-destructive die had involved them in inextricable ruin. Even her chair has been seized by an unfeeling creditor in the street, and the jeweller, to whom the distressed Chevalier once offered her ear-rings for sale, to his no small astonishment informed him that her ladyship had previously employed him on the same occasion, and that the real diamonds had long since given place to fictitious stones.

A small

A small annuity and one humble gig are now the sad remains of his once splendid fortunes. Jews, usurers, and successful gamblers possess the rest; and those treasures, which the avaricious father amassed by years of care and trouble, were dissipated by his unthinking son in little more than a single twelvemonth.

URGANDO.

URGANDO.

UNFORTUNATE and mistaken youth !
though perhaps less miserable in the loss of
riches, than in the full enjoyment of those
pleasures which cannot be purchased ex-
cept at the expence of ruin.

But what nobleman at this instant passes
the Chevalier ? Surely his head must be
giddy from the preposterous height of his
machine, and his neck is in no little dan-
ger of being broken from his unskilful ma-
nagement of the reins. I observe his com-
panion has a green bandage over his eyes,
unwilling I suppose to behold the horrors
of so dangerous a situation.

URIEL.

THAT adventurous charioteer is the
gay, the fashionable Baron Castalio, than
whom a more finished gentleman does not
grace the Libertusian Court. He is the
youngest

youngest of four accomplished brothers, but the family honours and estate belong to him alone, the nuptial ceremony having rendered his mother *an honest woman*, when she was on the point of bringing this youth into the world. Here however the rights of nature were subverted, and priority of birth was to his elder brothers an unavailing plea. By the inhuman policy of the Libertusian law deprived of their paternal inheritance, and branded by an unfeeling world with the degrading title of bastards, they fled for protection to the hospitable shores of India, and left their infatuated father to devote his whole attention to his youngest and most favoured son. Nor did that son, as he advanced in years, disappoint his fond parent's hopes. He soon became a proficient in scholastic exercises, and studied every polite accomplishment with the most rapid success. But perfection is not the lot of mortality, and an invincible rage for play has thrown a shade over the virtues of Castalie.

talio. This luxurious city is infested by a needy set of adventurers, who annually emigrate from a neighbouring island, and assume every false appearance, that can deceive the credulous and unwary. They artfully insinuate themselves into the society of men of fashion, talk loudly of their *unsullied honour*, and under the disguise of martial ferocity they conceal their native cowardice. Of these *gentlemen* has the unsuspecting Castalio been the prey, and among them, unless his guardian angel shall speedily interfere, will he distribute his paternal acres and the liberal bequests of his indulgent uncle.

The gentleman with him, who is honoured with his most unreserved friendship, is the unfortunate Count Venator. Fond of the pleasures of the chase, he pursued his beloved sport with a fatal eagerness, and by pushing his jaded hunter beyond his strength he exchanged in one luckless moment the

graces

graces of youth and beauty for blindness and deformity. But he has still been successful with the fair, and a young lady of rank and fashion, lovely too as the blooming daughters of Paradise, has received him for her husband. He may perhaps experience in her a faithful nurse, and a superior sense of female honour may ensure her chastity; but she exists a wretched though not involuntary martyr to female ambition and paternal avarice.

THAT

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 and deformity. But he has still been suc-
 cessful with the fair, and a young lady of
 rank and title, lovely too as the flower
 ing daughter of Paradise, has turned him
 for her husband. He may perhaps expec-
 tance in her a faithful nurse, and a restorer
 of female honour may exult in her
 chastity; but she exists a wretched object
 not involuntarily worthy to form a warning
 and paternal advice.

THAT

That elegant *vis-a-vis*, which has this moment entered the Circus, contains the beautiful and inconstant *Laurentina*. You see that well dressed youth, who rides by the side of her carriage, and whom she regards with such peculiar attention. From his appearance you would suppose him a man of fashion, but he has no other claim to that title, than what he has derived from the bounty of his indulgent mistress, who has raised him from the low station of her footman to a temporary affluence, and has lavished those sums, which her illustrious lord had dearly earned in the fields of Mars, on her ignoble spark.

The father of *Laurentina* resided in a celebrated sea-port town on the western coast of *Libertusia*, where he kept a paltry tavern for the accommodation of common sailors, and her mother was employed to wash the linen of the family by a former lady of the gallant *Nauticus*. The personal charms of the little *Laurentina* recommended her to the notice of the house-keeper, and her obliging readiness to execute trifling messages for the

inferior servants procured her a fixed establishment in the family. Her beauty increased as she grew up, and she had the address to gain so powerful an ascendancy over her master's heart, that on the decease of his wife he admitted her to a participation of his bed, and after an intercourse of some months he publicly married her, and introduced her into the gayest circles of this metropolis.

For some time did the charming Laurentina continue a most exemplary pattern of conjugal fidelity, and Nauticus congratulated himself on the secure possession of that felicity, which few husbands in this degenerate age can boast. A little accident however suddenly waked him from this golden dream of happiness, and afforded the most exquisite entertainment to every polite assembly in Libertusia. There is in this great metropolis, where every refinement on vice is practised, a variety of houses peculiarly calculated to promote the intercourse of the sexes, and secured by the most attentive caution from the intrusion of vulgar eyes. In these temples sacred to prostitution the luxurious votaries of debauchery indulge themselves in the unbounded gratification of every sensual appetite. Here the husband

husband satiated with domestic happiness often revels in the enjoyment of vernal charms, while his lady equally inconstant consoles herself in the lusty arms of her gallant. A venerable priestess, whose fiercer passions the icy fingers of time have cooled, here officiates, and procures for the young and vigorous those amusements, which they purchase at the expence of health, fortune, and reputation. To one of these mansions, when the dark shades of night had encircled the guilty world, did the unfaithful Nauticus repair, to court the embraces of some mercenary beauty, and on a couch, the scene of former joys, to forget the chaste pleasures of the connubial bed. Alas! unfortunate night and inauspicious couch! Here did he find the well-known handkerchief of his beloved wife, which he had presented to her as a nuptial gift, and which he little thought would ever prove the unhappy witness of her infamy and his disgrace. Not louder was Othello's rage when he demanded the fatal handkerchief from the trembling Desdemona. The mansion resounded with his cries, and *revenge, strumpet, adultery, and divorce* re-echoed in unconnected sounds throughout the

vaulted roofs. In vain did the affrighted priestess fall prostrate at his feet. He was deaf to the voice of reason, and rushing furiously into the street he flew like a madman to his own house, and presenting the handkerchief to his astonished wife reproached her with perfidy and ingratitude. The scene that ensued is beyond the power of words to paint. Laurentina fainted on the floor, and the enraged Nauticus leaving her to the care of the domestics retired to a neighbouring tavern, where he spent the remainder of the night with a select party of his friends, and drank a deep oblivion to domestic care. Mean while the situation of Laurentina was far from enviable. She suffered all the complicated agonies of suspense and fear; and shame, ruin, and public infamy stared her in the face. The following morning she solicited an interview with her injured husband, whose passion had now subsided, and who repented of those violent proceedings, by which he had proclaimed his own dishonour to the world. He still wished to recal the dear inconstant to his arms; her tears and his own good nature pleaded powerfully in her behalf, and her solemn promises of future constancy

stancy were the price of forgiveness for the past offence. Thus was the unlucky affair made up, and both parties observed more caution in their intrigues for the time to come. The story however was circulated throughout the town with the addition of every ludicrous circumstance, that either wit or malice could suggest. Every bagnio in the metropolis was by turns the scene of action; and each adventurer, noted for his devotion to generous widows and to wanton wives, was supposed to be the happy man.

Laurentina was now forbidden the court, nor was she ever after admitted to the royal presence, till the destruction of the grand fleet of Iberia had crowned the successful Nauticus with laurels, and the town by illuminations and by every other mark of public gratitude had solemnized this glorious victory. But her evil genius has still prevailed, and has urged her on to ruin. The absence of Nauticus, who commanded the fleets of his country in the western world, left her at liberty to pursue her vicious inclinations, and she took her full swing of pleasure. Her intercourse with a favourite servant has closed the scene, and she is now discarded by her husband, and

exposed to the contempt and scorn of those, who, though they have been more careful of their reputation, perhaps in secret have not been less guilty than the unfortunate *Laurentina*. She still preserves the remains of beauty, and that engaging sweetness of countenance, which formerly captivated the love-sick *Nauticus*, has not yet lost its charms. Her natural roses have long been faded, but an artificial bloom has supplied their place, and while cosmetic lotions shall continue to give a borrowed complexion to the *Libertusian* fair, so long shall the cheeks of *Laurentina* retain the tint of youth.

Urgando

URGANDO.

What young man is that, whose countenance is the picture of innocence itself, and whose dress and equipage combine to form so amiable a pattern of native simplicity? He seems to regard all sublunary objects with the utmost indifference, and to consider the pomp and splendor of the fluttering crowd around him as unworthy the notice of the wise and good. His flowing hair bespeaks him of some religious order, and his grave and modest deportment appears to be the happy result of conscious virtue.

URIEL.

The name of that demure youth is Fanaticus, and he is a shocking compound of hypocrisy, cunning, vain-glory, and deceit. He is descended from an ancient and honourable family, and but for the powerful interest of his illustrious house he would lately have suffered a shameful death upon a gibbet.

The influence of religious frenzy over the minds of men must ever operate in proportion to their want of knowledge, and a more headstrong, ignorant, and abandoned race
does

does not exist upon the terrestrial globe, than that which inhabits this great metropolis. On the credulity of these wretches did Fanaticus lay the basis of a scheme, which had well nigh shaken the tottering empire to its foundation. He foretold the downfall of their religion, painted the bloody judgments of the Papal See in all their terrors, and dressed up the imaginary object of their fears in its most hideous shape. His deep-laid stratagems had their desired effect, and no sooner had night thrown her sable curtain over the earth, than the metropolis blazed in every quarter. The horrors of that fatal night are not easy to be described. The daemon of sedition stalked abroad, and the torches of an enthusiastic mob involved the public buildings, and the houses of each obnoxious senator in one general conflagration. Military force at last restored the town to its tranquility, and Fanaticus was arraigned at the grand tribunal of the empire. But the credit of an illustrious family was at stake, and the deluded tools of his ambition were the only sacrifices, while the author of this tragic scene escaped unpunished.

Such

Such finished hypocrify in so young a man is seldom found. Under that exquisite disguise of meekness and humility pride, and the rage of blind enthusiasm lie concealed. The passion of lust also by turns predominates, and an adventure, which all his caution was insufficient to suppress, has induced the disciples of this modern saint to believe, that his inclinations are sometimes as vicious as their own. The beauty of his landress lately attracted his notice, and the wanton cast of her expressive eye induced him to believe that her virtue was not impregnable. One obstacle only opposed his wishes ; secrecy is not a female attribute, and he dreaded the lash of ridicule, if detected. But the power of love is omnipotent, and he ventured at last in timid accents to disclose his passion. His overtures were with joy received, and the hour of assignation fixed at the apartments of the landress. The heart of Fanaticus beat high with expectation ; at the appointed moment he rapped gently at her door, and was conducted into a gloomy chamber, where,

Like Tarquin ghastly with infernal lust, he seized the fair object of his wishes, and tasted the delicious sweetness of her lips. But before

fore he had time to proceed to further liberties, the door suddenly flew open, and the enraged husband laying hands on the astonished Fanaticus threatened on the spot to sacrifice him to his injured honour. The unfortunate king of Troy, when in the dead of night the hostile flames furrounded him, was but a faint image of the dismay which now overwhelmed Fanaticus. A cold-sweat bedewed his forehead, his knees forgot their office, and falling prostrate on the ground he implored forgiveness and life. His request was granted on the moderate terms of five hundred pieces of gold, for which his personal security was accepted till the day following; and he was permitted to retire from the scene of action, not a little mortified at an event so materially injurious to his purse and character.

I see

I see your eyes are turned towards a coach which has joined the throng, and contains the whimsical count Rinaldo and his charming wife. Singularity of dress and manners, strong passions, and the love of wine are the characteristics of his lordship; and his beautiful countess is a most extraordinary instance of that happy flexibility, which nature has implanted in the female breast. She had two sisters as lovely as herself, the brightest ornaments of the kingdom which gave them birth. They were called the Graces, and were truly worthy of the title. One of them has already found the rewards of virtue in the blissful regions of immortality. The Countess was not intended for Rinaldo. His son, an elegant and accomplished youth, had long been smitten with her charms, and the arrangement of the nuptial dower alone retarded their mutual happiness. At this period his mother died, and the disconsolate Rinaldo refused to survive his beloved wife. He gave himself up to the most unbounded grief, wept for whole nights together on her tomb,

and

and displayed such evident signs of distraction, that his friends were seriously alarmed, and the physicians foretold the loss of reason and perhaps of life. But that ruling destiny, which presides over the affairs of men, had ordained it otherwise. The most violent sorrows are often the least dangerous in their consequences; and the severest whirlwinds are followed by the most perfect calms. A new passion suddenly dried up Rinaldo's tears, and the remembrance of the departed angel, whom the cold grave enshrined, was banished from his breast. The charms of the fair Amelia had inspired him with a guilty flame. The fatal poison rankled in his heart, and the enamoured count forgot what was due to paternal affection, to honour, and to the world's opinion. He made serious proposals to the lady, and became the profest rival of his son. Rank, equipage, and parade were temptations too dazzling for female vanity to withstand, and the inconstant Amelia sacrificed her youthful charms to ugliness and age. Rinaldo had some months before displayed great personal bravery in a duel with the lord Bellario. The affair was yet talked of at court, and on the lovely bride being presented to the sovereign

reign, he received the congratulations of his royal master accompanied with this sarcastic remark, " that his lordship had given a stronger proof of his courage in marrying the fair Amelia, than in fighting the brave Bel-lario."

Her inconstancy to a deserving youth is certainly unpardonable; but I must still do impartial justice to her virtue, and acknowledge that she has proved an excellent wife to a jealous and discontented husband. Conscious of the superior merit of his son, and stung with the reflection of his own unnatural behaviour, he is for ever unhappy in himself, and fatal experience has convinced the countess, that wealth, titles, and splendor are often too dearly purchased at the expence of internal quiet.

U R G A N D O.

The conduct of Rinaldo is a most striking instance of the instability of human joys. A guilty conscience is indeed an avenging fury, and the grandeur which surrounds the vicious is but a life of splendid misery.

K

But

But what curious figure is that, which next presents itself? A coronet adorns the chariot, but the uncouth appearance of the owner bespeaks him of the plebeian order. His linen is uncommonly dirty, his peruke filthy and discoloured, and from the fullen stupor which overspreads his countenance, I should suppose he had not yet recovered his last night's debauch.

U R I E L.

That gentleman is the Baron Trinculo, covered indeed with hereditary honours, but yet the least respected of the Libertusian nobles. The applause of the vulgar multitude is his lordship's hobby-horse, and he has not blushed to seek popularity even in the dreary mansions of a prison. Natural benevolence and unaffected charity were at the moment his lordship's motives. But the distresses of the unfortunate were forgotten amidst the noise of faction, and he stooped to the paltry device of making the cause of the indigent and the oppressed a stalking horse
for

for the introduction of a more important business.

In the early part of his life he served in the corps of guards, but he refused to cross the Atlantic ocean, and of course forfeited his commission. A scruple of conscience was the pretence alledged, and he dared to dispute the power of his sovereign to chastise a rebellious foe. His exploits in another line have been equally unsuccessful. He has attempted the paths of naval glory, and carried arms on board the fleet of a great northern potentate. But he soon quitted that service in disgust, and returned to his native country.

The fumes of his last night's intemperance are not yet dispersed. His person, you see, is squallid, and his linen is stained with the juice of that nauseous herb, which intoxicates the senses and inflames the blood. However he has lately stepped into a lucrative appointment, and enjoys the confidence of his sovereign, whose choice of servants often does greater honour to his heart than to his understanding, but in this particular instance I may

venture to assert, that it reflects *equal honour* upon both.

But while I relate his foibles, let not his virtues pass unnoticed. Affable to his inferiors, and ever ready to sympathise with the distresses of the unfortunate, he possesses qualities which would do honour to those more polished senators, whose brilliant parts and elegant addresses are too often prostituted to venal purposes.

But

But yonder comes a more extraordinary character, than any this capricious age has yet produced. Behold that elegant carriage, adorned with the sacred mitre, and containing that nobleman of whom an ingenious author lately observed, that as comets can only be explained by the doctrine of eccentricity, so must his lordship's conduct be developed by the rules of inconsistency. He is dressed you see in his episcopal habit, and from the solemn composure of his features you would imagine him wholly bent on the contemplation of celestial objects. But under the specious appearance of inspired wisdom he conceals the most unbounded ambition, and under that venerable garb of sanctity the turbulent spirit of military Quixotism assumes every fantastic shape, that either childish folly or more powerful Lunar influence can give birth to. But Libertusia is not his lordship's scene of action. In that island, where now the plough-share is exchanged for the sword, and where every peasant is big with the pride, pomp, and consequence of

glorious war, he fancies himself a heaven-born general, and believes that he is sent on earth to redress the wrongs of a much injured people. There instead of holy priests he is surrounded by warlike *aide du camp*s; the gaudy livery of Mars is substituted for the sable vestment, and the humble crescent banished for the glittering steel.

The early years of this nobleman were attended with few auspicious omens. A small benefice and a cottage near the mansion of his predecessor were his whole dependence, and an eleemosynary dinner at his patron's table was accepted with joy and gratitude. His matrimonial project neither increased his fortune, nor did honour to his taste. His lady was the youngest of six natural children, who claimed the protection of a wealthy Chevalier, and who received that support from an indulgent father, which their cruel mother denied them. When pregnant with the seventh child, the Chevalier was induced to marry her, but the sanction of the nuptial ceremony could not restore her once blasted fame, or wipe off the stigma of prostitution. The neighbouring gentry refused to visit her,

and

and her disposition naturally peevish became doubly sour from the disappointment. She exercised the most despotic sway over her husband's family, and her children smarted under her tyranny, till her first-born son, a most accomplished youth and worthy a better fate, was rendered desperate by ill usage, and rushed unbidden into the presence of his great Creator...

But the Countess has not inherited her mother's temper. She has behaved with exemplary tenderness to a husband, whose unruly passions are above the controul of reason, and who is equally unqualified to govern a private family, or to preside at the helm of state.

But human nature is ever liable to inconsistencies, and the most brilliant parts are often obscured by the most gross defects.

Observe

Observe that lady, whose carriage this moment passes the Bishop's coach. Her countenance is suffused with a settled melancholy, and seems to bear the traces of disappointed ambition and ill-requited love. She is the widow of that accomplished nobleman, who has been equally conspicuous in the annals of politics and intrigue, and whose vices have been recorded on monuments of brass, but his virtues consigned to oblivion by an envious and misjudging world. This lady derived from nature an uncommon sensibility, and her personal attractions were by no means despicable. But the more powerful charms of gold were wanting, and she gladly embraced the opportunity of visiting the luxurious kingdoms of the East, where a Colonel in the service of a *mighty trading company* was smitten with her beauty, and she sacrificed her lovely person to the embraces of age and impotence. She was now surrounded by all the parade of oriental grandeur. Palanquins, carriages, numerous slaves, and all the voluptuous appendages of the East scarce left

left her a wish unsatisfied, when her husband, enervated by debauchery and worn out by wine and women, sunk into the arms of death; and left his gay widow to the peaceful enjoyment of wealth and liberty. She immediately returned to Europe, and appeared at the Circus, the theatres, and at every fashionable assembly, attended by an obsequious train of admirers, and covered with a profusion of diamonds. Numerous were the competitors for this golden prize; but the gallant, the accomplished Lothario eclipsed them all. Most happily formed by nature to captivate the fair, and possessed of every insinuating art that could seduce the believing virgin to his arms, he had been but too successful in his amours. Indeed few women could withstand the magic of his Syren tongue. He was by far the most finished gentleman of the present age, and had he been less licentious in the pursuit of pleasure, he might still have enjoyed those honours, which his high birth and his distinguished parts entitled him to. But extravagance had impaired his fortune, and his father, the generous patron of merit, and the Mæcenæ of Libertus, in those days was living. Matrimony,

the

the last certain expedient of every needy libertine, was his only resource, and in the charming Asiatic widow he quickly discovered an ample field of credulity and love. He immediately paid his addresses to her in form, counterfeited the fears, hopes and anxieties so inseparable from the tender passion, and in short flattered her vanity with such success, that she really felt those emotions which he only feigned, and surrendered her person and her treasures to his *longing* arms. The integrity of Lothario's father was here superior to paternal tenderness, and he candidly explained to her the embarrassed circumstances of his son, his unfortunate taste for dissipation, and his rooted aversion to the nuptial fetters. But in vain did the good old man remonstrate. She had drank deeply of the destructive passion, and rank, title, and precedence were powerful advocates in favour of a lover, who had so nearly touched her heart. The event proved fatal to her happiness, and the words of the venerable Count were prophetic of her future misery. Lothario had now gained his ends. His coffers were replenished with the spoils of Asia, and accus-

ed with the crime of seduction. He then returned to his country, and was received with the same

tomed to rove at large he was soon cloyed with the enjoyment of a person, whose beauties were not a little tarnished by the burning climate of India. Tears, faintings, and reproaches only increased the breach. The unfaithful Lothario sought that happiness abroad which his own house denied him, and at last a total separation closed the scene.

Soon after this event the father of Lothario paid the debt of nature. The estate and title of course descended to his son, and an ample provision was by his will bequeathed to this unhappy lady. But the Countess was still a prey to grief. She languished under the severest agonies of slighted love, and she smarted under that cruel neglect, which a wife divided from her husband seldom fails to experience from a censorious world. But Lothario did not long enjoy his honours. He was warned by a friendly dæmon of his approaching dissolution, and was snatched from the delusive joys of this transitory life, almost before he had tasted those pleasures which his liberal fortune had designed him. The unhappy Countess, once more a widow,

slow, watered the grave of Lothario with unfeigned tears. But she has had enough of matrimony, and will hardly be persuaded to shipwreck her future happiness on those dangerous quicksands, the vows and promises of a deceitful man.

But

But see, the Libertusian monarch is at hand. He returns from his country palace to the metropolis, to be harrassed by contending factions, and to deplore the want of that tranquillity, which the meanest of his subjects feel. When he mounted the Libertusian throne, this island was the unrivalled mistress of the world. The empire of the seas was hers, and the proud flags of each European kingdom owned obedience to her alone. For her did the fertile shores of Asia pour forth their golden treasures, nor did the wide extended nations of the western hemisphere aspire to a greater happiness, than that of subjection to the Libertusian laws. Far different is now the scene. On one side of the Atlantic

L

ocean

ocean have her rebellious sons thrown off their allegiance, and bowed to a foreign yoke; and on the other has the rising sun beheld her embattled hosts proudly waving their banners over the hostile plains, and before the evening star has gilded the face of heaven, have those ill-fated armies been buried in one untimely grave.

But this melancholy decline of power has sprung from the crimes of his ill-chosen servants, and not from his own misconduct: The temper of the natives will not bear a favourite, and their former monarchs have owed the loss of empire and of life to a favoured counsellor. The virtues of this prince are numerous; they do honour to him and to human nature, and had fate ordained him

him to have moved in a less exalted sphere, he would have enjoyed more perfect happiness, than is often allotted to the share of mortal beings. But happiness and imperial authority too seldom go hand in hand. On one side the cabals of the aristocratic party press him close, and *whisper* pernicious doctrines in his ear; on the other the high-minded champions of democracy invade his rights, and strive to render the sovereign of the Libertusian empire a *royal cypher*.

But the winds, which with relentless fury ruffle the bosom of the deep, are not more changeable and uncertain than these capricious islanders. They one day extol their monarch to the skies, and the next they express their causeless disapprobation by hisses and abuse. But

this privilege is their unalterable birth-right; the liberty of the subject is here exerted in its full extent, and the senator, whose hackneyed theme is the *glorious majesty of the people*, is at once the god of their idolatry.

The distraction which now prevails at court is the cause of that discontent so visible upon the royal brow. The nobles are divided among themselves, and the intrigues of factious individuals have involved the senate in inextricable confusion. Thus are the wheels of government clogged at home, and his subjects, who too long have groaned under the scourge of Asiatic tyranny, in all the anxiety of fearful expectation await that awful decision, which shall either restore them to the common rights of nature,

or

or oblige them to execrate that fatal day,
when India first received into her hospi-
table bosom the treacherous sons of Eu-
rope:

U R G A N D O.

I sincerely pity this unhappy prince,
and wish he may in future learn to di-
stinguish between the virtuous zeal of
those independant senators, whose object
is their peoples' good, and the false pa-
triotism of those ambitious spirits, who
would gladly lay the foundation of their
own greatness on the ruin of their king
and country.

URIEL.

But yonder comes the polished —,
 the favourite servant of the Muses, and
 the confidential friend of that patriotic
 Senator, whose struggles in the cause of
 liberty have preserved this tottering em-
 pire from impending ruin. His father
 pursued the paths of dramatic glory, and
 his memory will for ever live in the
 writings of that immortal satirist, who
 has adjudged him next in comic excel-
 lence to the modern Roscius. Educated
 under such a parent he imbibed a ge-
 nuine taste for poetry, and the theatre
 at a very early period has been indebted
 to his lively pen. His behaviour to the
 beautiful Rossignola, before he attained
 the

the age of twenty, reflected equal honour on his courage and his taste. He drew his sword in vindication of her injured fame, and afterwards sealed his attachment by the sacred bonds of matrimony.

Nor have his abilities been less conspicuous on the more extended theatre of the world, than in the closet. Never did Athens boast a more accomplished senator, nor did the academic grove resound with more native eloquence, than what flows from his honied lips. Unfortunate, that such transcendent qualities should be tarnished by one ungenerous foible, unworthy of his great abilities and his distinguished name! He cannot untouched with envy behold the laurels of another bard, or give the due tribute of impartial praise to the labours of

of a less fortunate author, who may one day with equal success aspire to those bright distinctions, which the Muse reserves for the inspired sons of Helicon.

The coaches are fast retiring from the Circus. The hour of dress approaches, and the gay crowd is now departing to prepare for their luxurious repasts, and for the different amusements of the evening. That elegant chariot, which now drives off, contains a melancholy example of the depravity of the human mind. Wealth, consequence, and the splendid honours of a Dukedom, may purchase the sordid tribute of flattery from a needy sycophant, but intrinsic merit only can command esteem.

For many years past has this proud grandee resided in a neighbouring kingdom. His extravagance first banished him

him from his native land, and his *peculiar* taste for pleasures induced him to visit countries less unfavourable to his pursuits than Libertusia. The paternal fortune of his grace was small; but his matrimonial connexion amply supplied the deficiency, and prudence alone was wanting. But frugality was incompatible with his amusements. His estates were deeply mortgaged; his credit was soon destroyed, and he was at last obliged to bid a long farewell to this metropolis and its enchanting joys. But he changed not his manners with the climate. The same extravagant ideas, the same vicious appetites still pursued him, and in a short time he experienced greater evils abroad, than what he had escaped from in Libertusia. In that town, which he imprudently chose for his place of residence,

dence, the same cruel law prevailed, which fills the prisons of this island with unhappy objects, and is an indelible stain upon a nation that boasts of liberty, and whose glorious characteristic is humanity. His Grace here contracted numerous debts, and his creditors demanded of the presiding magistrate that his person might be confined in jail according to the savage policy of the established law. Their request was in part refused. A city famous for its politeness blushed at the bare idea of offering so gross an indignity to a foreign nobleman. His parole of honour was accepted, and the only bounds prescribed to him were the limits of that jurisdiction, under which he lived. But no ties can restrain the wretch, who is equally lost to the sense of virtue, and to the dread of shame.

He

He infamously broke his parole, and was immured within the gloomy confines of a prison, where he had leisure for several years to reflect on his past dishonour, and to atone by involuntary repentance for his breach of faith. In course of time his affairs were settled, and his person was released. He immediately revisited his native country, but stayed only long enough to arrange his household, and to publish his own disgrace.

That lady, who is seated by him, is his favourite daughter, and the offspring of a casual amour. Her sister is married to his own valet, and his Grace has been long suspected of too great an intimacy with them both. It is well known that neither scruples of conscience, nor the terrors of legal punishment were ever deemed

deemed by this nobleman an obstacle to the gratification of an habitual appetite. He has inherited the vices, but not the amiable qualities of his royal ancestor, the most sensual monarch that ever sat on the Libertusian throne, and successor to that unfortunate king, who died by the hands of his rebellious subjects on a public scaffold.

He will in a few days return to _____ where he will spend the remainder of his life despised by all mankind, and courted only by his own servile dependants, and by the mercenary objects of his guilty lust.

But think not that this beauteous island, in which every thing smiles around, and where nature has thrown so few ob-

M

stacles

stacles in the way of happiness, contains not one virtuous man. The lovely and affectionate couple in yonder departing equipage are a rare instance of conjugal fidelity and unfulfilled faith. That lady, whose engaging countenance is a true symbol of the serenity within, is rich in hereditary titles, but far richer in internal worth. From her illustrious brother, who in the spring of life and in the pride of youthful vigour exchanged this terrestrial globe for the bright mansions of the happy, she inherits a noble fortune, and from indulgent nature she derives every grace, that can improve the person or adorn the mind.

Observe the expressive countenance and the manly beauties of her accomplished husband. Even his earliest infancy

fancy has been attended with every auspicious omen, and the opening dawn of life was prophetic of his future greatness. At college he formed those intimacies, which led to the paths of glory, and while other youths followed the pleasures of the bottle and the chase, he studied the manners of mankind, and strengthened the ties of those connexions, which have since aggrandized his family, and laid the foundation of a fortune little inferior to regal splendor. The sisters of this gentleman are not less amiable than himself, and have been equally the favourites of that fickle goddess, who so rarely bestows gifts on the deserving. One of them is already possessed of ducal honours, and another has long been married to the heir of the most wealthy

wealthy grandee in Libertia. Few noblemen in Europe can boast such great alliances, and still fewer can so truly say that their rank receives additional lustre from their intrinsic merit.

Every specious allurements, that ministerial influence could throw out, has been in vain made use of to draw over this gentleman to the aristocratic faction. Superior to the tricks of party, and devoted only to his country's good, he scorns to wear the badge of slavery, *that gilded by imperial munificence*. Happy had it been for this island, had her nobles, her senators, and her vaunting patriots walked in the steps of this accomplished youth. She would not then have lamented her divided empire, nor would
the

(125)

the proud fleets of Terpsichoria ride tri-
umphant in that ocean, once subject to
her alone.

F I N I S.

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